

BRAC deadline expires - DoD to begin closures, realignments

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations for reshaping the Defense Department's infrastructure and force structure officially took effect at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 9 after Congress allowed them to pass into law at the mandated Nov. 8 deadline.

The nine-member BRAC panel delivered its final report to President Bush Sept. 8, and he, in turn, sent it to Congress for legislative review Sept. 15. Congress had 45 legislative days, until Nov. 9, to accept or reject the report in its entirety. However, it was not authorized to make any changes to the final report.

By statute, the Defense Department now has until Sept. 15, 2007 — two years from the date President Bush sent Congress the BRAC commission's final re-

port — , to begin closing and realigning the installations as called for in the report. The process must be completed by Sept. 15, 2011, DoD officials explained.

The 2005 BRAC recommendations represent the most aggressive BRAC ever proposed, affecting more than 800 installations, officials said.

The four previous BRAC rounds — in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 — resulted in 97 major closures, 55 major realignments and 235 minor actions, according to DoD figures. Overall, closing and realigning these installations saved taxpayers around \$18 billion though fiscal 2001 and a further \$7 billion per year since, officials said.

BRAC 2005 is being called an important milestone in restructuring DoD's domestic base structure to improve efficiency and operational capabilities.

It also supports plans to move thousands of U.S. forces currently serving overseas to within the United States as

part of DoD's new global positioning strategy, officials said.

After months of study, installation visits and public hearings around the country, the nine-member BRAC panel approved 86 percent of DoD's original BRAC recommendations — 119 with no change and another 45 with amendments, the panel noted.

The panel also rejected 13 recommendations, significantly modified another 13, and made five additional closure or realignment recommendations on its own initiative.

Of DoD's 33 major closure recommendations, the panel approved 21, recommended seven bases be realigned rather than closed, and rejected five recommendations outright. In addition, the commission recommended closing rather than realigning another installation, for a total of 22 major closures.

Many of the transformational recom-

mendations in the report, particularly those to establish joint operations, will present significant challenges as they are implemented, officials acknowledged.

Detailed business plans will be developed for every BRAC recommendation, laying out what actions are required to implement them, when they will occur, and what resources are needed to put them into effect, officials said.

Affected services and agencies must submit these plans by Nov. 15 to the DoD Installation Capabilities Council, which will review them and forward them to the Infrastructure Steering Group for approval.

Meanwhile, DoD is poised to begin working with civilian employees and communities to be affected by the BRAC decisions.

DoD has a long and successful history of helping its civilian workers impacted by

See **BRAC** Page 11

Great American Smokeout: Smokers take a day off

Compiled by

Barstow Log Staff

They take out their lighters and cigarettes, remove the red, light, menthol or ultra light from the package and put it between their lips. With a flick, they light the lighter and hold it to the tip of the cigarette and inhale deeply. The smoke comes in past their mouth, their throats, into the depths of their lungs, bringing with it a sense of relief and an escape from the everyday stresses of life. Along with their nicotine fix, they inhale risks of stroke, numerous types of cancers, asthma, heart disease, osteoporosis, leukemia and many other health problems.

The Great American Smokeout is a day to encourage the more than 46 million people in the United States who smoke everyday to give it up, if only for one day to see that it is possible.

Since 1977 the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout has been held annually, typically the third Thursday in November and will be held today this year. This day is set-aside for smokers to quit and have the support of the nation behind them.

According to the American Cancer Society's Web site, a quitting plan, education and a support system are vital parts of successfully quitting. The

See **SMOKE** Page 11



Photo by Cpl. Jenna Cook

Marines at MCLB Barstow celebrated the 230th birthday of the Marine Corps Nov. 9 at Primm, Nev. For more photos see Pages 8 and 9.



Tune in on cable
Channel 80

Truck Co.

Realistic
training

-4-

Rebuilt

MK - 48s
born again

-7-

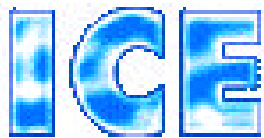
Birthday Ball

Party in
the Desert

-8 & 9-

**Check out the
Marine Corps
Web site:**

<http://www.usmc.mil>
or MCLB Barstow at:
<https://www.bam.usmc.mil/>



Comments, questions or concerns filed with the base Interactive Customer Service Evaluation system are automatically routed to the service provider and the service provider can respond directly.

To access the ICE Web site, visit the MCLB Barstow Web site at www.mclbonline.barstow.usmc.mil

and click the ICE logo.

The following are comments from actual ICE customers about the services received from the Oasis Club.

Customer Comments:

I'd like to commend the MCCS manager and staff for the wonderful service provided for the Hispanic Heritage Breakfast on Oct. 12. The food was great, the speaker, Lorenzo Valenzuela, was fabulous and things were handled wonderfully. MCCS continues to grow

professionally and we are very fortunate to have them support our activities for MCLB Barstow. Thank you MCCS.

Bonnie Holmes and the staff of the Oasis Club should be commended for the excellent service they provided during the POW/MIA luncheon Sept. 16. I worked with Bonnie during the entire process and she went out of her way to ensure that everything was ready. I have had several comments about the luncheon and they have all been very positive. Thanks so much to the Oasis Club staff for help-

ing to make this important event to honor our POWs/MIAs a success.

On Aug. 30, the CCLD Luncheon was held at the Oasis Club. From the planning stages to the event execution, the CCLD luncheon was handled in a very professional manner. The presentation of the food was fantastic, and the Oasis Club looked amazing. I would like to extend a special "thanks" to Bonnie Holmes and her crew for their efforts to make this event a memorable one.

Chaplain's Corner Never withholding good

By Lt. Tavis Long
Base Chaplain

All the eyes of the world were fixed on the small nation of Vietnam in 1975. For more than 20 years the United States had been involved in fighting communism in the tiny Southeast Asian nation. However, back in the United States support for the war had diminished. The sentiment against the war was so negative that often men and women in uniform were spit upon instead of cheered when they arrived back from their deployments.

Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and now Ford each had to deal with the looming crisis in Vietnam during their presidency. It was Nixon who was president in 1973, when a cease-fire was negotiated in Paris. That cease-fire was signed in January, and by March, all U.S. combat troops had been withdrawn from Vietnam. For the United States, the war was over. But for Vietnam, the situation was still critical.

With the military aid gone, South

Vietnam struggled to maintain their independence. For the next couple of years, the tension grew.

Finally, in March of 1975, the North Vietnamese forces violated the cease-fire and swept into South Vietnam. Unprepared and short on supplies, the South Vietnamese army did what they could to impede the communist takeover.

As the rest of the nation fell to communism, Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, soon became a refuge for Vietnamese who were fleeing the onslaught of the communists. Thousands of refugees poured into the city trying to get to the United States embassy, their last hope for escape. Between April 23 and 29, 1975, the United States embassy personnel



See **CHAPLAIN** Page 10

Chapel Services

Catholic Mass

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
505 E. Mt. View
Barstow
Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Misa En Espanol
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. English

Jewish Services

Call 252-0148 for information on scheduled services.

Protestant

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Pfc. Quentin Grogan

Miguel Amaral, heavy mobile equipment mechanic, Cost Work Center 725, mounts brackets underneath a trailer to secure the bed to the frame. Amaral has been employed at Maintenance Center Barstow for five months.

Barstow Log

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Steven J. Thompson, Commanding Officer

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Bill Bokholt
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Shay Richardson
Public Affairs Specialist: Rob L. Jackson
Combat Correspondent: Cpl. Ashley Scott
Combat Correspondent: Cpl. Jenna Cook
Combat Correspondent: Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Combat Correspondent: Pfc. Quentin Grogan

The editorial content of this newspaper is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer, Attn: Public Affairs, Box 110130, Barstow, CA 92311-5050. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 15. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282. This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of **BARSTOW LOG** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps. **BARSTOW LOG** is published by Aerotech News, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Marine Corps, or Aerotech News, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

BARSTOW LOG is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. **BARSTOW LOG** is produced at Aerotech News in Lancaster, Calif. Printed circulation is 3,500.

For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, phone: (661) 945-5634.

News Briefs



TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Talking to children About Drugs and Alcohol

Don't put off talking to children about alcohol and other drugs. Kids worry about pressure to use alcohol and other drugs even in elementary grades. School programs aren't enough.

Parents must become involved, but many aren't sure how to talk with their children about drugs. A main reason children choose not to use drugs is because they are afraid of disappointing their parents—so talk to them now!

Here are some tips for raising drug-free children in the 21st century.

- Listen to children. Pay careful, thoughtful attention. If a child says something you don't want to hear, don't ignore the statement—talk about it.

- Encourage healthy and creative activities. Emphasize the importance of good health. Discuss the difference between medicine and illegal drugs. Help your child get involved in hobbies, after-school activities, or sports.

- Help children feel good about themselves and develop strong values. Relate the fact that you place high value on your child's special qualities and that drugs will destroy those qualities. Discuss values such as honesty and responsibility.

- Educate yourself and talk with your child about alcohol and other drugs. Teach him ways to say no. Get to know the facts about how drugs harm people—physically, socially, and educationally. Don't exaggerate the effects of drugs or make up "facts."

- Set a good example. If you choose to drink alcohol, do so responsibly and moderately. Your

habits and attitudes strongly influence your child. Keep the distinction clear about what is legal for adults but not for children.

- Help your child learn to deal with peer pressure. Children need to know that their friends can be wrong. You and your child might act out various situations in which someone tries to convince him to drink alcohol or to take drugs. Figure out several good ways to handle a situation.

- Know what to do if you suspect a problem. Beware of signs and symptoms of drug use. Seek advice from a professional—a counselor, a religious leader, or someone at a local treatment center.

- Team up with other parents. Form or join a parent group that provides information on child rearing and facts on alcohol and other drugs. Support one another in coping with your children's concerns and problems.

For more information, contact Physical Security/Crime Prevention Department, MCLB Barstow 577-6514.



Myths and Facts

Myth: The proposed appeal system is not an impartial process.

Fact: Under NSPS, employees retain the right to appeal to a third party in adverse action cases. The proposed regulations retain Merit Systems Protection Board administrative judges as the initial adjudicators of employee appeals of adverse actions.

Although the proposed regulations provide for a departmental review of those initial administrative judge decisions, employees retain the right to appeal to the full MSPB to review a final department decision.

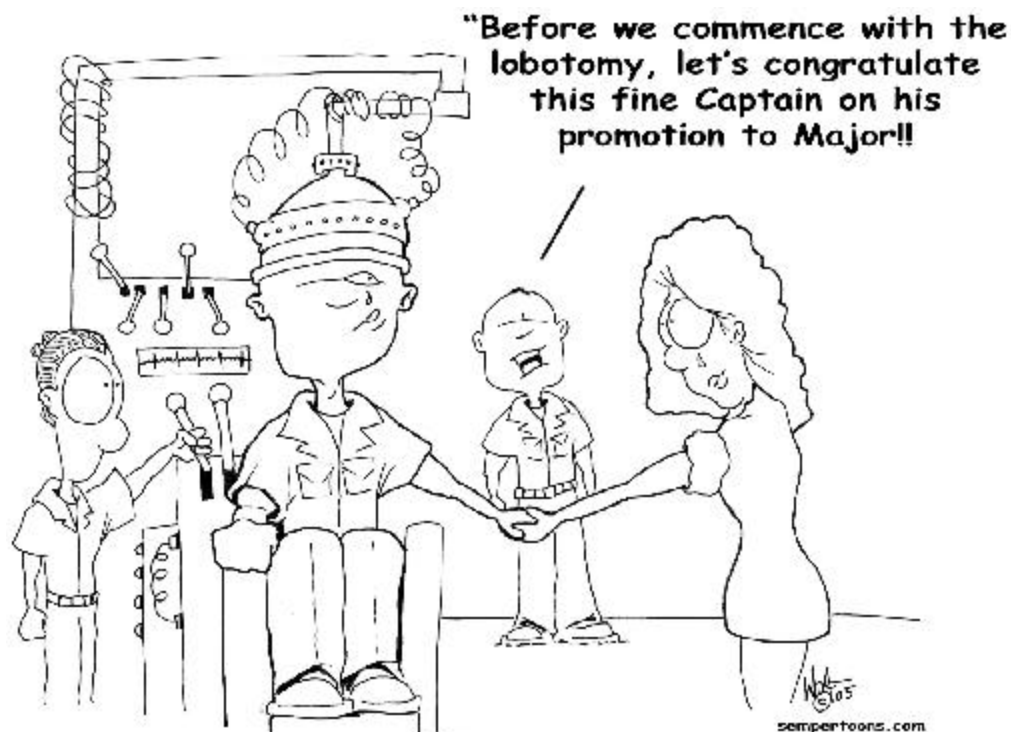
Leave Sharing Program

Holly F. Greer, Installation and Logistics Department, has been affected by a medical emergency.

Anyone desiring to donate leave under the Leave Sharing

Sempertoons

Created by Gunnery Sgt. Charles Wolf
USMCActive



Job Watch

Annc No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
SW6-5703-06-CE261543-DE	Motor Vehicle Operator	11-09-05	11-17-05	11-12-05	MCLB Barstow
WG-5703-06	(Temp. Not to extend 1 year)				

Applicants interested in the above positions should submit resumes online at the following Web sites: <https://chart.donhr.navy.mil> or <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding Open Continuous announcements point your browser to <http://www.donhr.navy.mil>.

For more information concerning job announcements visit the Self-Service Center, Building 236, Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call the Human Resources Office at 577-6357/6279/6481.

This is not an official list. Please see the Web sites listed for a complete list.

Program may obtain a leave donor application from their department administrative officer.

For more information, contact Kelly Woodford at 577-6638 or Johnnie Curtis at 577-6734.

Vehicle Management
Headquarters Marine Corps has a new vehicle operations and maintenance program called Fleet Focus.

This system will be introduced to MCLB Barstow in early January. In order to meet the new system requirements, a team will be here Friday to conduct an inventory.

For more information, contact John Hines at 577-6296.

Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oasis Club and the Maintenance Center. Departments should submit a list of voluntary donors to the Human Resources Office no later than Dec. 5.

Employees who wish to use the Yermo site, forward a list to the Maintenance Center, attention Birdenne.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Office at 577-6487.

ATV Course

A dirt bike and ATV course is scheduled for Nov. 30 from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. All gear is provided, but if drivers have their own they are encouraged to bring it. Spots are still available for persons who have not scheduled for the class.

To enroll, call Gunnery Sgt. Michael Parker at 577-6003.

Editor's Note
"News Briefs" are designed to disseminate any information to the MCLB Barstow community. Any submissions to be used in the paper should be received Thursdays before noon for next week's issue. Submit briefs via e-mail to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Truck Co. supports 3rd LAR during NTC training

■ Combined training leads to increased confidence before Iraqi deployment

By Cpl. Nich R. Babb
Combat Correspondent

NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER FORT IRWIN, Calif. – The Marines of Truck Company from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton attached to the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force participated in a field training exercise at the end of October at NTC Ft. Irwin, Calif. The training was a pre-deployment exercise that was meant to help Marines of the 3rd LAR be prepared for their deployment to Iraq this spring.

The components of the 3rd LAR consist of companies located at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Truck

Co. calls MCB Camp Pendleton home and was not familiar with too many Marines from 3rd LAR, said Cpl. Jesús Garza, line noncommissioned officer in charge and tool room NCOIC of Truck Co.

The training allowed the Marines of the two units to be able to communicate and work together more efficiently while completing a mission, Garza said.

The simulation the exercise provided for the Marines of 3rd LAR was some of the most realistic that could have been provided to the Marines, said Garza. Garza spent two years in Okinawa, Japan where the training was highly regulated due to the

civilians protesting, he said. The beauty of training in the U.S., is that the scenarios practiced by Marines are not being hindered by civilians.

The result of the training is a group of Marines who are more confident in their ability to carry out missions in Iraq than before, Garza said.

During the training, Truck Co. was tasked with going on convoys transporting items to and from the fake Iraqi town of Medina Jabal and to other Marine companies located around the training area, said Garza. It was during these convoys that the company would simulate improvised explosive device or rocket propelled grenade attacks as well as truck

rollovers.

“Everything for the training went real smooth and nice, and right now we’re pretty much ready to go,” Garza said.

Due to the training, private first classes and the lance corporals in the company are exceptionally familiar with manning the .50 caliber machine guns that are located on top of the 7-ton trucks, said Garza. They also know specific tactical details, which are important to operation effectiveness.

Not all praises for the 3rd LAR have been from Marines in the unit, some soldiers have given compliments to the Marines, Garza said. The soldiers said that Truck Co.’s react team was one of the best that they have seen at NTC Ft. Irwin.

From all of the positive feedback Truck Co. has received, there is no point in Marines not feeling confident while in Iraq, Garza said. The training was good, and the job they do while deployed is going to be a reflection of the training they participated in while in the U.S.



Photo by Cpl. Nich R. Babb

Before a convoy leaves a forward operating base to complete a mission, the vehicles are placed in the order of which they are to travel in during the convoy for max effectiveness.

Gunny's Picks

Week 11



Keith Jenkins

It only took 10 weeks but we have our first two-time winner of the season. Congratulations to Keith Jenkins, of Public Works, who took the Week 10 Picks with a 10-3 record; he didn't need the Monday Night game. The Pittsburgh Steelers fan was elated to get the call and, of course, he expects The Steel Curtain to bring down the

house on the Ravens this weekend. Here are the rest of the games. Good luck!

Arizona at St. Louis*

*Carolina at Chicago

Detroit at Dallas*

*Jacksonville at Tennessee

Miami at Cleveland*

New Orleans at New England*

Oakland at Washington*

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants*

*Pittsburgh at Baltimore

Tampa Bay at Atlanta*

*Seattle at San Francisco

Buffalo at San Diego*

*Indianapolis at Cincinnati

N.Y. Jets at Denver*

*Kansas City at Houston

Monday Night: Minnesota at Green Bay*

Submit entries online to editor@barstow.usmc.mil, or drop them off at the Public Affairs Office located in the Green Wing of Building 15.



Photo by Rob Jackson

The Just Cruisin' 4 Fun Car Club hosted its 17th annual Toys For Tots Car Show Saturday in the Barstow Wal-Mart parking lot. The show is held annually to collect toys for the Marine Toys for Tots Program and was open to all types and years of vehicles and motorcycles.

2005 Toys For Tots Campaign

The 2005 Toys For Tots campaign kicked off locally last week in Victorville. Other events planned to collect toys for the program include:

The MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division will again this year host Toys

For Tots Tuesday on Nov. 22, 29 and Dec. 6. Marines and civilian employees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to work and drop it off with the firemen and Santa, at the Main Gates of Nebo and the Yermo Annex.

Toys for Tots locally, though it is a year-round program, will culminate with the annual Toys for Tots Telethon, which will be held Dec. 3 at the Elks Lodge, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be televised on Time-Warner Cable Channel 6.

Eyes in the skies keep insurgents on defensive

By Cpl. James D. Hamel
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

CAMP AL QAIM, Iraq — It's the middle of the day at Camp Gannon, Iraq, a small forward operating base on the Syrian border, when mortar rounds begin raining down on the small outpost.

In the nearby city of Husaybah, an insurgent is at the window of the top story of a three-story building, calmly placing rounds into a mortar tube, lobbing them at a Marine base. Those observing him would later comment on his apparent comfort while attacking the Marines. He fires a round, calmly fetches another one, fires it and repeats the process.

There are no U.S. service members within sight or sound, and the insurgent appears confident he can continue unabated. Then a bomb hits the insurgent's building, and he's dead. He was correct. No one was around, so how did they pinpoint his exact location?

The answer is the Scan Eagle, a lightweight unmanned aerial vehicle that provides live, high-quality video to locate and eliminate enemy fighters.

"The Scan Eagle allows both the forward air controller and us to see the target more clearly," said Maj. John B. Baranco, the Camp Al Qaim detachment officer-in-charge for Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 and Boston native.

In the Al Qaim area, the AH-1 Cobra and UH-1 Huey helicopters of HML/A-369 are the primary responders from the air to the threats picked up by the Scan Eagle.

Their intelligence chief constantly analyzes the video feeds, as do Marines from the region's main ground combat unit, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment.

Meanwhile, multiple intelligence specialists at the Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1's Camp Al Qaim Scan Eagle detachment adjust the UAV's flight path and camera angle to

ensure any suspicious activity is recorded.

If infantry Marines are in the area, the threat is reported so they can avoid

potential disaster and take action. If no ground forces are present, aviation units,

See **ATC** Page 11



Photo by Cpl. James D. Hamel

The Scan Eagle, an unmanned aerial vehicle, prepares for takeoff in the early morning hours near Al Qaim. The UAV provides live video feeds of large areas, raising the effectiveness of aviation combat elements and lowering the risk to Marines on the ground.

Demolished MK - 48s return to battle ready at MCB

The month-long path to rebuilding a Marine Corps work horse

By Pfc. Quentin Grogan
Combat Correspondent

With what normally would be considered a piece of scrap metal or just another casualty in the ongoing war effort, the MK-48 Logistics Vehicle Systems currently being repaired at MCLB Barstow are just another project for a dedicated shop.

The MK-48 line is experiencing a new type of work. Due to the extensive damage, the employees on the line have to completely rebuild the vehicle from the ground up, said Don Crownover, supervisor Cost Work Center 714. Equipment needing repair came to MCB with wheels missing, axels broken, pieces missing in action, and no brakes.

This is a heavy tactical vehicle unit consisting of the front cab, or power unit, and interchangeable rear body components. MK-

48 refers specifically to the front unit. The vehicle is the military version of a semi-truck. The truck is highly maneuverable and is capable of making sharp turns due to the hydraulics in the steering.

When being repaired, the trucks are taken apart completely. Some parts are completely replaced because it is cheaper than repairing that part, said Crownover. Whatever can be fixed stays; anything that is demolished is replaced and recycled.

After the repairs have been made, new war paint is applied and it is off to the road test for final evaluations before the vehicle is deemed fleet ready.

The road test consists of a sand and rock portion to check the all-wheel drive, an oval track for the alignment and speed, a brake test to check the emergency brakes and a hill test in

which the brakes are tested again. The road test is also done with a full load on the back, which is 25,000 pounds on top of a trailer the vehicle has to pull.

"It's a strange truck to drive. It's not like any other vehicle," said Crownover.

The damage to the vehicle and the fact that they are going to repair them is unusual. Repairs are not usually made to vehicles this badly damaged. However, there is nothing normal about the end of the MK-48 line this year, said Crownover.

"We will build anything for [the Fleet Marine Force], we don't care," said Crownover about the extensive damage.

In fiscal year 2004, 112 MK-48's were brought to MCB for repairs. For fiscal year 2006, there are only 58 scheduled to come in, said Crownover. However, this year, 114 of the vehicles were brought in.

"On average it takes 70 days to rebuild [an MK-48], but we can do it in about 40 days," said Crownover.

He also went on to say that it would not take them any longer to repair them due to the extent

"On average it takes 70 days to rebuild [an MK-48], but we can do it in about 40 days."

Don Crownover

See MK-48 Page 11



Photo by Pfc. Quentin Grogan

A finished MK-48, with all new parts and a new paint job waits outside the Maintenance Center before being shipped back out to the fleet.

*MCLB Barstow brings out the
“Pomp and Circumstance” for the ...*

Marine Corps Birthday Ball



Photo by Cpl. Nich R. Babb

Birthday cake is traditionally a part of the Marine Corps birthday celebration.



Photo by Cpl. Nich R. Babb

Maj. Gen. Willie J. Williams, commanding general of Marine Corps Logistics Command and guest of honor for the MCLB Birthday Ball, speaks to the audience about his thoughts on what it means to be a Marine and how important the traditions of the Marine Corps are. Williams is an Alabama native who was commissioned in May of 1974.



As part of the ceremony, the birthday cake is sliced and



MCLB Barstow's Color Guard presents the colors during the Birthday Ball Ceremony.

From left to right are: Lance Cpl. Daniel Clark, Sgt. Angel Avila, Sgt. Joseph Tumpis and Lance Cpl. Jason Jordan.



Photo by Cpl. Jenna Cook

ay cake is escorted to the
l and served to guests.



Photo by Cpl. Nich R. Babb



Photo by Cpl. Jenna Cook

Col. Steven Thompson, commanding officer, MCLB Barstow, and Maj. Gen. Willie J. Williams, commanding general of Marine Corps Logistics Command, are spotlighted as they are introduced as the commanding officer and guest of honor to ball attendees.



Photo by Cpl. Jenna Cook



Photo credit www.1-mef.usmc.mil

Capt. Teddy E. Gilmore, public works officer, shares a dance with his wife, Army, during the celebration

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

were evacuated along with any remaining U.S. civilians. In addition, during those seven days more than 130,000 South Vietnamese refugees were evacuated by the U.S. military. But, by April 30, the communist flag was raised over Saigon and the name was changed to Ho Chi Minh City.

The refugees who did escape were taken into the Gulf of Tonkin to U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. Soon, the decks of the carriers were crowded with thousands of refugees seeking asylum.

One such carrier was the USS Midway. During the evacuation, an extraordinary event occurred on the Midway. In the afternoon of April 30, a Cessna 0-1, also called a “Bird Dog” began to circle the

Midway. The crew of the Midway kept their eyes on this little plane, thinking it would soon ditch alongside the carrier in hopes of being rescued by the crew.

However, the tiny plane flew over the ship and dropped a noted anchored to a wrench. The note landed on the deck of the ship stating that the pilot was carrying his wife and five children aboard the plane. The pilot requested permission to land aboard the Midway. Word quickly reached Captain L. C. Chambers, the commanding officer on the bridge. Captain Chambers was faced with a dilemma. As he scanned the deck, he was positive there was no room to land a plane even as small as the “Bird Dog.”

The captain weighed his possibilities, with five children

aboard the plane, they could not possibly survive if he ordered the pilot to ditch the plane; but on the other hand, the deck was full of people and aircraft. He could move the refugees below deck, but the aircraft would still be in the way and there was not enough time for him to have them airborne and out of the way before the “Bird Dog” would run out of fuel. In a split second, the captain knew what he had to do.

Knowing that his decision would certainly cost him command of his ship and perhaps even take him to court-martial, he ordered that no more flights land on the carrier and that all standing aircraft be ditched into the sea.

One sailor gave this account of the event, “[It] was in the midst of the Vietnamese

helicopters coming in. We were pushing them off right and left, trying to keep the landing area clear. We came up to speed, which was about 30 knots, and put the bow into the wind, which meant we had 40-50 knots of wind across the deck. The pilot was able to approach from the stern, going only 5-10 knots faster than we were. He set it down on the carrier, rolled about 20 yards, and stopped. As perfect as if he’d been on a regular airstrip. That’s the only non-tailhook fixed-wing aircraft to ever land on an aircraft carrier.” Chambers never was court-marstialed nor did he lose his command.

Captain Chambers is a clear illustration of Proverbs 3:27.

The proverbs says, “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in

the power of thine hand to do it.”

We see the same principle in the New Testament book of James. In the second chapter of James, there is strict warning to those who would sit idly by and not come to someone’s aid when that person is in need.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to help those who are in need.

One final verse for you to contemplate. James 2:8-9 states, “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: ⁹ But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.” In other words, we sin when we do not help those in need when we have the capability to do so.

BRAC from Page 1

base closings, officials noted. This includes programs that promote placement, training, retraining and transition to new positions.

Since 1989, DoD has reduced its civilian work force by 428,400 people, with less than 10 percent of those reductions through involuntary separations, officials said.

DoD's Priority Placement Program, which officials call the centerpiece of DoD's Civilian Assistance and Re-employment programs, gives defense employees placement priority at other DoD facilities.

DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment will take the lead for the federal government in helping communities affected by base closures and realignments, working cooperatively with the President's Economic Adjustment Committee, officials said.

A community conference to be held in early 2006 will focus on many of the issues involved in BRAC 2005 and the programs available to address them.

SMOKE from Page 1

following are tips to increase the chance of a successful quit.

Previous to quitting, make preparations to quit. Set a quit date, tell friends and family that you will be quitting and find a substitute such as chewing gum.

Becoming educated about the dangers of smoking and learning about the symptoms of withdrawals can increase the chances of quitting successfully. Knowing what to expect when withdrawals hit, can make them easier to conquer.

Support systems are critical for competing with cravings. Telling friends and family why quitting is important and then having them repeat it back when the quitting is difficult is an effective method.

The Branch Medical Clinic on MCLB Barstow offers information, nicotine replacement and counseling for anyone who wants to quit smoking. For more information, call 577-6491.

For more information, visit www.cancer.org.

ATC from Page 6

like HML/A-369, are dispatched to deal with the enemy. As is often the case, Cobras or Hueys are in the air performing different missions when a threat is discovered by the Scan Eagle. From there, good communication with VMU-1 allows the pilots to switch gears and neutralize a new target.

"Trust is important," said Staff Sgt. Matthew G. Cornejo, the intelligence chief for the Scan Eagle detachment at Al Qaim and Bay City, Mich., native. "There's no miscommunication (between the Scan Eagle detachment and the helicopter pilots). We know how to positively identify targets and they have to trust what we tell them."

To generate images, the Scan Eagle flies in a large circular pattern above an area. It can see everything that goes on inside that orbit, and also hundreds of meters outside.

To chase a subject on the

ground, the pilots adjust the center of the orbit to keep in the flight path of the UAV.

Cornejo said the Scan Eagle is remarkably lightweight and fuel efficient compared to other UAVs. The Pioneer, for example, can only fly for a few hours on a full tank of fuel, while the Scan Eagle can fly from dawn to dusk.

Eventually, said Barranco, new technology will allow the Cobra pilots to view Scan Eagle video feeds within the cockpit. Until then, intelligence analysts on the ground are always working to keep Marines a step ahead.

"It's important we neutralize threats before they can put anyone in danger," said Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Koupmann, a Janesville, Wis., native and intelligence analyst for the Scan Eagle detachment.

"Even if we find only one insurgent, then that's one less person shooting at the Marines on the ground."



Photo by Pfc. Quentin Grogan

An MK-48 waits in the shop for repairs to be done after arriving at MCB with missing tires.

MK-48 from Page 7

of the damage.

The Marine Corps is the only branch that still uses the vehicle because the truck is going to be phased out soon, said Crownover.

The shop that does the repairs on this vehicle consists of 53 employees. It is those employees who are given a wreck, and turn it into a truck ready to be driven anywhere in the world.

The vehicle's strong build and versatility make it a perfect fit for the Marine Corps.

That is why the engineers working on the vehicle take pride in the work, no matter how much damage there is.



Fitness Expo

Today the Semper Fit Gym, Building 44, will host a Fitness Expo from 1 to 5 p.m.

Attendees will have the opportunity to test their cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar, cardiac rhythm and weight.

Demonstrations by physical, massage and skin care therapists as well as stretching, fit balls, bosu, step and rep reebok, will be given throughout the expo.

For more information contact Shelley Hines or Mary Ann Serafin at 577-6817 or 577-6812.

Bowling Center

Hours of operation are Wednesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Don't forget a Frequent Bowler's Card on the next visit.

Ceramic Studio

Hours are Wednesdays through Fridays from noon to 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information, contact Kim Hildebrand at 577-6228.

Football Bash

Monday, during the weekly membership night activities at the Oasis Club, the first of several drawings of the MCCS Football Bash will be to win a trip to the Big Game in Detroit Michigan. Drawings are currently underway at all MCCS Clubs and /or restaurants and will continue through Dec. 8.

This is one of the many great opportunities MCCS provides to its patrons.

Through Dec. 8, any time you patronize an MCCS Club or restaurant, you will be eligible to enter a raffle for a chance to win

the Grand Prize - a five-day/four-night, all expense paid trip for two to Detroit, Mich., to attend Super Bowl XL, valued at over \$7,000.

The Grand Prize winner will also receive \$500 spending money. The Second Place Prize will be \$1,000 and merchandise, and the Third Place Prize will be \$500 and merchandise.

For more information, contact MCCS Marketing at 577-5893.

Weekend Movies

Saturday and Sunday

"House of Sand & Fog"

"Along Came Polly"

Nov. 26 - 27

"Bridget Jones I & II"

Show times start at 10 a.m. and run continuously throughout the day.

The Library is also repairing scratched CDs: music, DVD, and or games. They will remove all

scratches, dirt and dust.

For more information contact Zara Fucci at 577-6395.

Christmas Party

Dec. 15, from 5 to 10 p.m. MCCS will host it's annual Christmas Party.

Music will be provided by DJ KaShanDra, there will be free food and a special appearance by Santa Claus for the kids. The event is open to all active duty, retired military along with all MCLB employees and their families. For more information, contact MCCS Marketing at 577-5893.

Lunch Menu

Today - Stuffed bell peppers, mashed potatoes & gravy

Friday - Breaded hoki fish, macaroni & cheese, broccoli

Monday - Chicken tenders, seasoned fries, cole slaw, sliced fruit.

Tuesday - Sliced pork sirloin, mashed potatoes & gravy.

Wednesday - No special - Order A La Carte.

Food & Hospitality

Today

- Pasta Night at the O-Club starts at 5 p.m.

- Mamas meat loaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, green salad, Italian wedding soup, yellow cake and a drink, at the Family Restaurant from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Friday

- Membership Appreciation at Oasis Club 5 p.m.

- TGI Friday Family Night at the Enlisted Club 5 p.m.

Saturday

- Brunch at the Enlisted Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Social starts at 6 p.m.

Monday

- Darts, pool and CD Music at the Enlisted Club, 5 p.m.

- Membership Appreciation Night at the Oasis Club, 5 p.m.

Tuesday

- Bring your Right Arm Night! At the Oasis Club at 5 p.m.

Wednesday

- Burn your Own Steak Night at the Enlisted Club begins at 5 p.m.

MOTORCYCLES 2002 Kawasaki
Praiere 650 ATV. \$3,500. Call 254-
3569.

CARS: 2004 Dodge Neon 5 speed,
AM/FM cassette, 14,000 miles.
\$9,600. Call 254-3569.

CARS: 1986 Suzuki Intruder 1400,
18,000 miles, new tires and battery.
Good shape. Straight pipes, extra
set with purchase. \$1,800 OBO.
Call 447-0075.

MISCELLANEOUS: Entertainment
center and desk, \$50. Call 760-784-
4089.